



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/775,002	02/01/2001	Ron Joseph	054611-003	7478

7590                    03/26/2003

Thompson Hine & Flory LLP  
Attention: Theodore D. Lienesch  
2000 Courthouse Plaza N.E.  
P.O. Box 8801  
Dayton, OH 45401-8801

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

AKERS, GEOFFREY R

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

	Application 09/775002	Applicant(s) <i>Akash, G</i>
	Examiner <i>Akash, G</i>	Art. Unit 3624
	Confirmation No.	

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address -

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/1/01

This action is FINAL.  This action is non-final.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1 - 41 is/are pending in this application.

Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1 - 41 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved or  disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are  accepted or  objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d) or (f).

All  Some\*  None of the:

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received:

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 4

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 3624

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-41 have been examined.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-41 are rejected under 35 USC 103(b) as unpatentable over Lineback(1991) in view of Waldo(US Pat. No:6,237,009).

4. As per claims 1-41 Lineback teaches online leasing of automobiles(Page 1). Waldo teaches lease renewal services and renegotiation at the end of a lease term(Abstract) as well as managing leases between clients(Abstract)(Figs 1-18)(col 4 line 51-col 6 line 57) as well as maintaining appropriate databases(Fig 5)(Fig 9) and lease cancellation(Fig 18) over a network(Fig 7/55)(Fig 8/55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Lineback in view of Waldo to teach the applicant's invention. The motivation to combine is to teach a method of managing leases in an online system with multiple clients as enunciated by Waldo(col 6 lines 50-57).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 3624

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-41 are further rejected under 35 USC 112(2nd) for failing to point out and specifically claim what applicant regards is the invention. The independent claims are too broad to sufficiently indicate the distinctive characteristics of the disclosure.

\*\*\*\*\*

7. Any questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the primary examiner of record, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E., who can be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 703-306-5844. If attempts to contact the primary examiner are unsuccessful, the primary examiner's superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.

The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft or Informal faxes to Technology Center 3600 or this Art Unit is (703)-308-3687. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-1113.



March 20, 2003

DR. GEOFFREY R. AKERS, P.E.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER